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Proceedings of the Maritimes Region Science Advisory Process on Assessment for Georges Bank Scallop

4 May 2007

Paul Boudreau
Meeting Chair

Bedford Institute of Oceanography
1 Challenger Drive, P.O. Box 1006
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
B2Y 4A2

June 2007

Compte rendu de la réunion du Processus de consultation scientifique de la Région des Maritimes sur l'évaluation du pétoncle du banc Georges

Le 4 mai 2007

Paul Boudreau
Président de réunion

Institut océanographique de Bedford
1, promenade Challenger, C.P. 1006
Dartmouth (Nouvelle-Écosse)
B2Y 4A2

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Canada

Foreword

The purpose of these Proceedings is to document the activities and key discussions of the meeting. The Proceedings include research recommendations, uncertainties, and the rationale for decisions made by the meeting. Proceedings also document when data, analyses or interpretations were reviewed and rejected on scientific grounds, including the reason(s) for rejection. As such, interpretations and opinions presented in this report individually may be factually incorrect or misleading, but are included to record as faithfully as possible what was considered at the meeting. No statements are to be taken as reflecting the conclusions of the meeting unless they are clearly identified as such. Moreover, further review may result in a change of conclusions where additional information was identified as relevant to the topics being considered, but not available in the timeframe of the meeting. In the rare case when there are formal dissenting views, these are also archived as Annexes to the Proceedings.

Avant-propos

Le présent compte rendu a pour but de documenter les principales activités et discussions qui ont eu lieu au cours de la réunion. Il contient des recommandations sur les recherches à effectuer, traite des incertitudes et expose les motifs ayant mené à la prise de décisions pendant la réunion. En outre, il fait état de données, d'analyses ou d'interprétations passées en revue et rejetées pour des raisons scientifiques, en donnant la raison du rejet. Bien que les interprétations et les opinions contenus dans le présent rapport puissent être inexacts ou propres à induire en erreur, ils sont quand même reproduits aussi fidèlement que possible afin de refléter les échanges tenus au cours de la réunion. Ainsi, aucune partie de ce rapport ne doit être considéré en tant que reflet des conclusions de la réunion, à moins d'indication précise en ce sens. De plus, un examen ultérieur de la question pourrait entraîner des changements aux conclusions, notamment si l'information supplémentaire pertinente, non disponible au moment de la réunion, est fournie par la suite. Finalement, dans les rares cas où des opinions divergentes sont exprimées officiellement, celles-ci sont également consignées dans les annexes du compte rendu.

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SUMMARY

The Maritimes Region Science Advisory Process (SAP) review of the assessment for Georges Bank scallop was carried out at a meeting on 4 May 2007. Following review of the available information, the meeting provided recommendations on appropriate harvest levels for use in managing the fisheries.

These proceedings document the presentations, discussions, recommendations, agenda, and participants from the meeting.

SOMMAIRE

Dans le cadre du Processus de consultation scientifique (PCS) de la Région des Maritimes, une réunion portant sur l'évaluation du stock de pétoncle du banc Georges s'est tenue le le 4 mai 2007. Après avoir examiné l'information disponible, les participants à la réunion ont formulé des recommandations sur les quantités de captures propices à une bonne gestion de la ressource.

On trouvera dans le présent compte rendu un résumé des exposés, discussions et recommandations auxquels cette réunion a donné lieu, ainsi que l'ordre du jour de celle-ci et la liste des personnes qui y ont participé.

INTRODUCTION

The meeting commenced with the Chair, Paul Boudreau, welcoming the participants. He particularly noted the presence of Drs. R. Mohn and S. Rowe, who were the invited scientific reviewers for the meeting. The context and overall process of the assessment, as outlined in the Terms of Reference, were then presented. Following this, there was a discussion on the objectives of this meeting which focused on applying the accepted framework to the data for use in generating advice for management on the 2007 fishery.

The Chair noted that the draft 2007 Scientific Advisory Report (SAR) and the 2006 SAR were available at the back of the room.

Presentation Highlights

Ian Jonsen provided a presentation on the summary of the information that was contained in the draft SAR.

The Georges Bank is one of the main sea scallop stocks fished by the offshore scallop fleet. It is managed into two management zones, Zone 'a' that is the traditional scallop fishing ground and a more productive area than Zone 'b', which is marginal scallop habitat. The presentation and discussion focused on the stock status and advice for Zone 'a'.

The data used for this assessment include the commercial catch per unit of effort (CPUE), research vessel (RV) survey, and meat weight frequency estimated from the commercial catch. A sequential population analysis was used to calculate biomass estimates of scallops per age group for the past several years. This information was used to estimate exploitation rates for 2007 and formed the basis of the science advice.

A comparison of the 2007 estimates of age 4-7 biomass and those from 2006 showed some discrepancies between the model outputs, particularly for mid- to late-1990's. This might be reason to be cautious about using the model outputs for science advice.

Discussion

It was noted that the model was relatively inflexible to rapid changes in stock age structure and that, in general, model estimates would be conservative. Despite issues with fitting to the observed data in the 1990's, the model provides an adequate fit to the most recent data, suggesting a recent increase in age 4-7 biomass. This is supported by the recent trend in the survey CPUE.

In addition to the uncertainty in the model results, there is uncertainty in the extent to which the spatial heterogeneity of the stock and the fishing fleet effort may be influencing the commercial CPUE. There has been no ageing in recent years for this stock, thus age-height conversions do not account for potential changes in growth rates. This may be giving rise to further uncertainty in the model results.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Despite several issues with the stock assessment model, the recent (2003-2006) biomass estimates and RV survey index both suggest an increase in exploitable biomass. For this reason, the Total Allowable Catch scenarios presented were deemed appropriate.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

It was agreed that the draft SAR would be revised to reflect the discussions and agreements at this meeting. The next draft will be circulated to the participants of the meeting for their comments before it would be reviewed by the editorial review board.

The Chair confirmed that the draft proceedings would be circulated for review and comment.

The Chair then thanked all the participants and closed the meeting.

Appendix 1. Terms of Reference

Science Advisory Process on Assessment for Georges Bank Scallop

4 May 2007

The Gully Boardroom
Bedford Institute of Oceanography
Dartmouth, NS

Terms of Reference

Context

The status of Georges Bank scallop was last assessed in 2006. Harvest advice is requested on an annual basis by Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) Fisheries and Aquaculture Management (FAM) Branch. The current assessment is requested by FAM to provide harvest advice for 2007.

Objectives

- Assess the status of the resource on Georges Bank.
- Provide harvest advice for the 2007 fishery using the 2006 assessment formulation.

Outputs

CSAS Science Advisory Report
CSAS Proceedings

Participants

DFO Science
DFO Fisheries and Aquaculture Management
NS provincial representatives and the fishing industry

Appendix 2. List of Participants

Science Advisory Process on Assessment for Georges Bank Scallop

4 May 2007

The Gully Boardroom
Bedford Institute of Oceanography
Dartmouth, NS

Name	Affiliation	Telephone	Fax	Email
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Appendix 3. Agenda

Science Advisory Process on Assessment for Georges Bank Scallop

4 May 2007

The Gully Boardroom
Bedford Institute of Oceanography
Dartmouth, NS

PROPOSED TIMETABLE

Thursday, 3 May 2007	**Time**	***Lead***
Introduction	09:00-09:10	P. Boudreau (Chair)
Scallop: Georges Bank	09:10-10:00	
Critique and discussion of SAR for Georges Bank scallop	10:00-12:00	All